Memorial of Jaggery Manufacturers.

9. * **MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR** : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether they have received any memorial from the Palmyra jaggery manufacturers of the State through the Travancore Chamber of Commerce praying for the cancellation of customs duty on jaggery;

(*b*) whether any and what orders have been passed on the same; and

(*c*) whether the Government are realising tree tax on Palmyra in South Travancore?

MR. M. P. JOSEPH (*Ag Excise Commissioner*) :

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes. The tariff value of jaggery for purpose of export duty has been reduced from Bh. Rs. 12-8-0 per cwt. to Bh. Rs. 10-0-0 per cwt. with effect from the 6th December 1938.

(*c*) Tree tax is realised by the Excise Department for palmyra trees tapped for fermented toddy.

MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR : May I know whether the palmyra trees in the taluks of Kalkulam and Agasteeswaram are taxed?

MR. M. P. JOSEPH : The palmyra trees tapped for fermented toddy alone are taxed.

MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR : Are palmyra trees tapped for sweet toddy taxed?

MR. M. P. JOSEPH : They are not taxed by the Excise Department. It seems that the Revenue Department tax about 8 cash per tree.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR : May I know the date of the memorial?

MR. M. P. JOSEPH : I cannot say the exact date. It was about two years back.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR : May I know the reasons stated in the memorial for the cancellation of customs duty on jaggery?

MR. M. P. JOSEPH : The reason stated was the protection of the interest of jaggery makers.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR : May I know whether the reduction in the tariff value of jaggery from Rs. 12-8 as. to Rs. 10 has affected the export of jaggery?

MR. M. P. JOSEPH : No, it has not. On the other hand we find that this year the export is less.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR : May I know whether the Thuckala Sugar Factory after it has begun to be run by Parry & Co. has affected the export of jaggery?

MR. M. P. JOSEPH : So far as I know, it has not affected.

MR K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR : May I know whether it is a fact that Parry & Co. made a representation to the Government that customs duty on jaggery should be enhanced?

MR. M. P. JOSEPH : Yes.

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MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR : May I know the date of that representation ?

MR. M. P. JOSEPH : It was given at the time of the memorial ?

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR : May I know the approximate loss of income that Government may incur if customs duty on jaggery is abolished?

MR. M. P. JOSEPH : I cannot say now.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : May I know from the honourable member the total amount of money collected in the year 1113 by way of customs duty on palmyra jaggery ?

MR. M. P. JUSEPH : I cannot give the figure now.

Bridge at Thottapally.

10. *MR. S. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Quilon* cum *Kottarakara*) : Will the Government be pleased to state ;

(*a*) what was the original estimated cost of putting up the temporary bridge at Thottapally ;

(*b*) what is the sum actually spent on the construction of the bridge ;

(*c*) the name of the officer who was in charge of the construction of the bridge together with his qualification ; and

(*d*) whether he had sought the advice of any qualified person in regard to the feasibility of the scheme ?

MR. M. K. NILAKANTA AIYAR : (*a*) Original estimate for a bridge for light loading Rs. 3,500. This was changed to a permanent bridge for heavy loading estimated to cost about Rs. 10,000.

(*b*) The work has not yet been completed. It is expected to cost Rs. 10,000.

(*c*) Mr. S. Kamesam, the Director of Development. Full Membership of the Institution of Engineers (India) of 6 years' standing. Honours from the Madras Engineering College and first in B. E. (Mech) of the Madras University in 1920. Author of a Government of India publication entitled " Treated timber for highway bridges " and of another dealing with " Timber bridge design and construction " in course of publication by the Government of India. Expert for the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, for long span bridge construction. The only South Indian Engineer who has won the blue riband of the Institution of Engineers for 1932-33 His Excellency the Viceroy's prize.

(*d*) There was no necessity for this, and the Director of Development is fully qualified to design and undertake the work in question.

Thottapally Bridge.

11. *MR. P. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Mavelikara* cum *Kunnatiur*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) who was supervising the construction of the Thottapally bridge ;

(*b*) whether there was any stipulation that the bridge should be completed before any particular date ; and

(*c*) what is the amount spent on it ?

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